(c) An amount of Rs. 103.00 lakhs has been released to the Government of Rajasthan during 1994-95 under Central Road Fund. It is too early to indicate the proposed funds to be released during the year 1995-96.

Subsidy for fixing catalytic convertor in vehicles in Delhi

3801. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government to provide subsidy for fixing catalytic convertors in vehicles in Delhi to check the level of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide subsidy for the same; and

(d) if so, by when and how much?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Auditing of accounts of National Institute of Port Management by Private Agency

3802. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the National Institute of Port Management set up under the aegis of Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India, accounts are being audited annually by private Chartered Accountants; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons to carry out the auditing by an outside private agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The National Institute of Port Management (NIPM) Madras was set up on 1st February 1985 as an autonomous Society, registered under the Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act (1975), with a view to imparting training to managerial personnel of Major Ports and other organisations interfacing with Ports. A sum of Rs. 6 crores was granted by the Government to the Institute, for construction of building and other accessories, as one-time grant. It was, therefore; decided that the accounts of the Institute may be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) for a period of 5 years, commencing from the year 1991-92. The question of the year 1991.92. The question of further entrusting the audit of Accounts of the Institute to C&AG was examined in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs and it was decided that auditing of the Accounts of NIPM by the C&AG may be discontinued for the year 1992-93. Hence the Accounts for the year 1992-93 onwards are being got audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants.

Shortage of containers at Ports

3803 SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Container Shortage hits Southern Ports", which appeared in Business Line dated the 4th March, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for this shortage;

(c) what steps Government have initiated to overcome the problem;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that exporters are forced to bring empty containers from Singapore and Colombo to Madras and other Southern Ports at exhorbitant cost;

(e) what had been the annual production of containers in the country during the last three years, year-wise and unit-wise, and location of production units;

(f) what has been the annual requirement of containers during this period, year-wise; and

(g) whether Government would try to locate more production units in South India, near the ports; for a long term solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The availability of containers depends upon various factors like demand production and their engagement by various shippers.

(d) This Ministry has no such information.

(c) and (e) to (g). The requirement of containers depends upon the traffic generated. The production of the containers depends upon the demand. The Marine Freight Containers is a de-licensed industry. The entrepreneurs intending to manufacture the containers may file an industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry. These are eight units manufacturing Marine Freight Containers in organised sector. As per the available figures seven of them produced 6756 container during 1993-94 and 8533 containers during 1994-95 as per the details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Location	Production Figures 1993-94	1994-95
1.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	Cochin	1052	1365
2.	-do-	Calcutta	Nil	Nil
3.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	Calcutta	20	119
4.	Him Containers Ltd.	Haldia	327	735
5.	Nathani Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Bombay]	Nil	Nil
6.	Sealord Containers Ltd.	Chembur, Bombay	Nil	Nil
7.	Trans Freight Containers Ltd.	Tarapur]	5357	6314

Declaration of Dibrugarh-Oiramghat Waterways as National Waterways

3804. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Waterways in the country and their location;

(b) the decision of Government to declare Dibrugarh Oiramghat (Assam-Arunachal Pradesh) Waterways, which takes 9 hours up stream and 6 hours down stream, respectively, by ferry, as National Waterways; and